

TO: LEOFF I Members
FROM: Kirkland Disability Board
DATE: November 30, 2005
RE: Medicare D

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with some information about Medicare D prescription coverage and to make a recommendation.

Medicare D is the benefit plan for prescription drugs and will be offered to all who have Medicare (Parts A & B) as their primary health insurance coverage. The Medicare D plan begins January 1, 2006. The conversion to Medicare D allows you to make a choice or election to go to Medicare D after November 15, 2005 and each year thereafter.

The Disability Board recommends that you NOT enroll in Medicare D at this time. Do nothing and your coverage will continue as it has, without interruption. It is the opinion of the Disability Board that the prescription coverage you are currently provided is superior to the benefit provided by Medicare D.

A list of the main points is presented below for your review:

- Medicare D is an option for you. You can choose to elect it or do nothing.
- If you do nothing, your current health insurance coverage remains in place.
- Selection of Medicare D is **irrevocable**. You can not go back once you have enrolled and your current coverage will be permanently terminated.
- Your current prescription drug plan is “as good as” or better than Medicare D.
- There is an annual open enrollment period for Medicare D (because your current coverage is as good as or better than Medicare D).

You are encouraged to compare current coverage with the coverage and potential additional cost of the plans offered by Medicare. The Disability Board thought it would be helpful to provide you with some sources of additional information and recommendation about this decision.

For further information, the following sources are available to you:

AWC Trust Office: www.awcnet.org/employeebenefits
1-800-562-8981

Medicare: www.medicare.gov
1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-772-1213). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048